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2/3/04

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q55939

Etsuko KIMURA

Appln. No.: 09/408,265

Group Art Unit: 2645

Confirmation No.: 3838

Examiner: Simon P. Sing

Filed: September 29, 1999

For: PORTABLE ELECTRONIC APPARATUS

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98

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JAN 02 2004

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Technology Center 2600

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the document which is listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) form and listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

1. United Kingdom Patent Application No. 2 326 561, published December 23, 1998.

One copy of the listed document is submitted herewith, along with a copy of the United Kingdom Examination Report dated November 25, 2003 which cites the above listed reference.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the later of three months from the application's filing date and the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before a Final Office Action, Notice of Allowance, or an action that otherwise closes

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

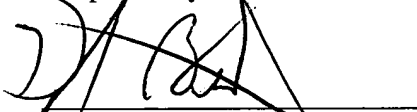
U.S. Appln. No.: 09/408,265

prosecution in the application (whichever is earlier), and therefore Applicant is filing concurrently herewith a Statement Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e). No fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this paper is attached.

Respectfully submitted,



Howard L. Bernstein
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WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: December 31, 2003



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STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)

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Sir:

The undersigned hereby states, upon information and belief:

That each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement filed concurrently herewith was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of said Information Disclosure Statement.

Respectfully submitted,

Howard L. Bernstein
Registration No. 25,665

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